

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Michel Kubacki  
Title: METHODS, RACK AND DEVICE FOR  
PREPARING SAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS  
Appl. No.: 10/544,158  
Filing Date: 10/14/2005  
Examiner: Timothy Lewis Maust  
Art Unit: 3751  
Confirmation Number: 8425

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Examiner:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated January 28, 2009, concerning the above-referenced patent application. The shortened statutory period for reply is set to expire on April 28, 2009. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

**Amendments to the Abstract** are presented on page 2 and the new Abstract is attached to this document to replace the previously submitted Abstract.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: